

(e) Ganga Action Plan Phase II has become a Centrally Sponsored Scheme with 100 percent funding by the Government of India since 1.4.1997 except the land cost which is to be borne by the concerned State Governments.

Irregularities in Nandankanan Zoo, Orissa

2815. SHRI K. KALAVENKATA RAO: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to enquire into the cases of flouting of the Wild Life Protection Act at Nandankanan Zoo in Orissa where subordinates ignore the Chief Warden and do not answer the official queries on Zoo affairs;

(b) the cases of financial irregularities in food procurement process in 2000-2001, pointed out by the Chief Warden; and

(c) the action proposed against those involved in flouting Wild Life Act/ rules and responsible for financial irregularities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) to (c) State Government of Orissa is in receipt of a report about the financial and other irregularities committed by then Director, Nandankanan Zoo, Orissa. State Government has entrusted the enquiry to an officer of the level of Additional Secretary to Government of Orissa.

Screening of selected infections in Zoos

2816. DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to issue instructions to do a regular screening for selected infections within and around zoos of the country, to prevent tragedies like death of 12 tigers in Nandankanan Zoo recently;

(b) if so, the instructions issued in this regard; and

(c) if not, how the national furore of such catastrophe would be settled?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) to (c) The zoo recognition rules stipulate regular screening of animals against parasitic infections and administration of prophylactics in positive animals. However, in the light of

death of tigers in Nandankanan Zoo, these instructions have been again reiterated for necessary action.

Depletion of Forest Cover at Similipal Tiger Project

2817. SHRI. BIRABHADRA SINGH:

SHRI B. J. PANDA:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have made any study about the depletion of forest cover at Similipal Tiger Project in Mayurbhanj District of Orissa in the recent years;

(b) if so, what are the reasons for the depletion;

(c) what long-term and short-term steps Government propose to take to arrest this depletion; and

(d) whether Government propose to review the various steps taken for the wellbeing of the Tiger Project, in view of the unnatural death of tigers in Nandankanan Zoo of Orissa?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) According to the report received from Orissa Government there is no depletion of forest cover at Similipal Tiger Reserve in Mayurbhanj District of Orissa.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

(d) Preventive measure against spread of Trypanosomiasis in wild tigers, include regular monitoring of the health of the livestock in and around the Similipal Tiger Reserve and exclusion of animals that are found positive.

Rising pollution in metropolitan cities

†2818. SHRI MANOHAR KANT DHYANI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether air pollution is increasing rapidly in four metropolitan cities of Delhi, Mumbai, Calcutta and Chennai in the country;

(b) the level of air pollution in each of the cities;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.